## FRAND JURY TAKES UP STORE MURDER CANARD

Investigating Slander on Abraham & Straus That Has Stirred Brooklyn.

NO BASIS FOR THE YARN

Proprietors Issue Statement After Asking District Attorney to Act.

Witnesses were examined by the Kings county Grand Jury yesterday regarding a persistent and widespread rumor that a young woman employed in the Fulton street department store of Abraham & straus had been murdered and her body discovered in a wire locker in the Livingston street annex. The department store proprietors requested this action. The rumor, which started almost a month ago,

was gaining headway.
It began trickling into newwpaper offices, police stations and the District Attorney's office last month, but seemed to have no foundation in fact as successive, investigations proved. In some instances specific dates were given, together with circumstantial accounts of just how the girl had returned to her locker late in the afternoon, had been robbed, mistreated, murderer and jammed into the locker, to topple out on the girl who shared the when she opened it next day to put away her coat and hat. In only a few instances, however, were the names of any of the principals or their addresses given, and these were quickly proved

Among the witnesses who testified yesterday were Inspector Harkins, acting captain Coghlin and Detectives Roddy and Murray. The latter were assigned to the case early in September, when the first rumor reached Headquarters, and worked on it for about a month with only negative results. All four of the police officers said that they were able to find nothing that would indicate that crime of the police of the control of the

nothing that would indicate that crime of any kind had been committed.

The firm of Abraham & Straus gave out a statement yesterday saying that the matter had been turned over to the authorities following the failure of a private investigation. The statement follows: For two weeks we have done everything

possible to run down the origin of a preresterous and utterly unfounded rumor her roughly" while she was entering the that some one had been murdered or a dining room of an apartment house. body discovered in a locker in this store. We have opened our store to the investiga-tions of police, Coroner and State Labor or why it was started, all without result.

After a thorough investigation on our

or why it was started, all without result.

After a thorough investigation on our can account we found that no one was unaccountably missing from our staff of employees, that no one had been assaulted and that no body finding and nothing upon which to base in the slightest way the story of finding a body had occurred here at any time. All we could discover was that some one relephoned the newspapers and followed this up with anonymous letters.

We have not been able to find who started the slander and can find no motive for such mainciousness. The police, Coroner and others have been investigating the rumor night and day until every authority in the city knows the thing to be absolutely false.

The anonymous letter writing continues, however, and we believe in justice to all concerned the District Attorney should be asked to investigate the matter. How his investigation will proceed is a matter for

asked to investigate the matter. How his investigation will proceed is a matter for him to decide

Every one who has investigated the story realizes that the details given in the anonymous letters prove the whole slander to be merely malicious or the work, as some believe, of an insane person.

It is extraordinary that so preposterous a story should have gained credence with no foundation—but in justice to every one we have asked the District Attorney to take the matter up and make a thorough investi

One of the witnessee yesterday, Harry Rlein of the Rlein News Agency, was quizzed regarding a "tip" his concern sent out on September 23 in which it was said that two girls had been murdered in the department store, according to information received from a "reliable and trustworthy source." Mr. Rlein, it is understood, testified that he had received the information from a friend and, after sending it out, had traced it back through three other persons. That was as far as he could go, he said.

Actions for slander or libel are promised by the firm if it can discover the person or persons who originated the rumor. The Grand Jury was making every effort yesterday, it is aid, to sift the matter down to the originator, having practically satisfied itself that there was no truth in the rumor.

FIREMEN CRUSHED UNDER WALL

Exploding Tanks Spray Hosemen With Burning Oil.

Drug fumes handicapped the firemen at a blaze early yesterday morning in the factory of J. L. Hopkins & Co., manufacturing chemists at 477 to 487 Keap street, Williamsburg. The main building is a five story brick structure and adjoining it was a three story brick building. An explosion in the rear of the building near the Rodney street side started the fire. It was quickly followed by others among tanks of oil in the cellar. When the firemen arrived the flames had spread to the three story building and were

to the three story building and were communicating to the five story structure. Deputy Fire Chief Maher had two additional alarms turned in and Deputy Chief Lally turned in the fourth.

Soon after the fourth alarm Chief Kenion arrived and concentrated the efforts of his men on saving the adjoining property. While the men were at work on the Rodney street side the wall fell. Joseph Reilly of Engine 116 had his left leg fractured and Fireman Frank Keating had his right ankle broken. Both were injured internally and were taken to not his right ankie broken. Both were injured internally and were taken to hospitals. Others less seriously hurt were Patrick Condon, John Fitzgerald, Michael Graham, George Kriethke and Henry Borghardt. From time to time showers of oil were scattered over the fremen and set their clothes afire. The like did \$150 000.0 damage. fire did \$150,000 damage.

OWENS GOES A-SHOOTING.

Looks for the Carrolls and Hits a Saloon Patron.

Ihomas Owens, a Democratic politician the Fourteenth Assembly district in Williamsburg, was held in \$5,000 bail yesterday for a hearing on a charge of felonious assault and carrying a loaded reloiver. He went into the saloon of Lawrence F. Carroll, a former Democraic Assembly district leader of Willcraic Assembly district leader of Co.

Countries Assembly district lead

## Omorrow

is your last opportunity to visit the

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ACTRESS SAYS HE PUSHED HER.

And When Magistrate Discharges Dodge She Threatens to Appeal.

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 17 .- Capt. Frederick G. Dodge of the United States rev-enue service was before Magistrate Jagmetty this afternoon in the police court, accused by Miss Geanne Bayne of Alabama with having been guilty of simple assault. Miss Bayne alleged he "pushed

dining room of an apartment house. The trouble grew out of a discussion of the shooting of Col. Roosevelt at breaktions of police, Coroner and State Lador bepartment and requested the authorities fast when, it is alleged by the others, to help us to find out who started the slander Miss Bayne made a remark that was resented by more than one person.

afterward proved to be a woods and swamp atterward proved to be a woods and swamp blaze was seen at Island Heights from the mainland on the evening of September 16. A report started that the fire was caused by the burning of the Pine Beach Inn at Island Beach. As a matter of fact the fire was not at the inn nor was the hotel prop-erty damaged in any way.

AMUSEMENTS.

CENTURY THEATRE 62d & Cent. Park West. Phone 8800 Cols. Evgs. at 8. Matinees Wed. & Sat. at 2. THE DAUGHTER OF Most Wonderful OF HEAVEN Specifical Since The Creation. "Greater even than The Garden of Allah." By PIERRE LOTI and JUDITH GAUTIER.

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A few opinions of unbiased playgoers

Wallack's Theatre

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"It reveals the strength of the newer English drama; the drama of ideas—which the American stage woefully lacks. Every one interested in the theatre should see it."—FHOM PSON BUCHANAN, author of "A Woman's Way," etc.
"One of the most convincing silces of life I have

"One of the most convincing siles of life I have ever seen."
—BRANDER MATTHEWS, Prof. Dramatic Literature, Columbia Univ.

"Interacture, Columbia Univ.

"Intensely absorbing. Acting is entirely admirable. The play will appeal to all lovers of real drama."

- LEW IS WALLER.

"The most gripping, human drama I have ever seen."—HME. SIMONE.

"It is a superb play, perfectly acted. It makes one proud to belong to the theatre."

- BILLIE BURKE.

"A very great and powerful play, daring in conception and staged with a cast that has rarely been equalled."
—JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, Editor N. Y.

"One of the strongest and most interesting plays I ever saw. Fauitlessly acted." —CHARLES DANA GIBSON. "One of the most enthralling pleces of dramatic literature ever put on the stage."

- R. H. DAVIS, Editor Munsey's.

"A most surprising play of absorbing interest and of perfect acting."

- GEORGE RANDOLPH CHESTER, the famous novelist.

"A splendid play, beautifully acted. I enjoyed it immensely."

E. M. MORGAN, Postmaster, New York.

"I was thrilled and delighted by the play and acting. It is all wonderful." —JULIA ARTHUR CHENEY. "I confess I like 'The New Sin' so well that I wish I had committed it."

-LOUIS N. PARKER, author of "Disraell." ELTINGE West 42d St. Evs. at 8:15.

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39TH ST. Th., 39, nr. B'y. Ev.8:15, Mats. Tom'w. A New American THE BRUTE 48TH ST. THEATRE Eves. 8:15. Mats. LITTLE MISS BROWN THE MERRY COUNTESS William Collier's COMEDY, 41st. P. of B'way, Evgs. 8:15. Mat. FANNY'S FIRST PLAY To-m'w 2:15.

LYRIC, 42. W. of B'way. Ev. 8:15. Mat. Tom'w2:15
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Maxine Elliott's Th., 39th, bet, RV & 4 Ave, Evgs. 8:30. Mat. READY MONEY To-morrow 2:30. READY WEST END, 125th, W. of 8th av. Mat. To-m'w. JAMES T. POWERS, "Two Little Brides." Next Week OVER NIGHT.

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